

climatic investigation. More stations must be sampled and incorporated in the present study, and earlier time periods should be analyzed. However, there are fewer chronologies during these early periods and errors may be greater, for fewer specimens are available and these specimens are likely to be relatively short archaeological pieces. Because of these difficulties, mapping of the climate prior to the 16th century was not attempted. However, plots and comparisons of the early data show climatic variations comparable to those mapped in figures 2-10.

It is hoped that this kind of investigation will provide a basis for relating the short periods of recorded weather to climatic patterns of the past as well as provide clues to the nature and causes of climatic change. It is reasonable to infer that this type of analysis may be applied to other arid or cold areas of the world. A series of such analyses on a global scale would provide highly valuable regional information on long-term fluctuations in atmospheric circulation and on possible factors influencing the heat balance and water economy of marginal lands.

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